

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

**WENDY PINI**

BASED ON THE TV SERIES CREATED BY

**RON KOSLOW**

**FIRST**  
PUBLISHING



# Beauty and the Beast™

# *Night of Beauty*

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

# WENDY PINI

WILLIE SCHUBERT   ANINA BENNETT  
LETTERS                    EDITOR

Cover painting by JIM WARREN

Based on the series created by RON KOSLOW

**Beauty and the Beast: Night of Beauty**

Beauty and the Beast © 1990 Republic Pictures Corporation.

Beauty and the Beast: Night of Beauty © 1990 First Publishing, Inc., under exclusive license from Republic Pictures Corporation.

Cover painting © 1990 Jim Warren.

Rainer Maria Rilke, "Requiem for a friend," from *The Selected Poems of Rainier Maria Rilke* (bilingual edition, 1989), translated and edited by Steven Mitchell. Reprinted by permission of the publisher, Vintage International Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, New York.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by information storage and retrieval system, without express written permission from the publisher. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred.

Beauty and the Beast is a trademark of Republic Pictures Corporation. "First Publishing" and the stylized "1F" are trademarks of First Publishing, Inc.

Published by First Publishing, Inc.  
435 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60610

ISBN: 0-915419-75-0

First printing: March 1990

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Printed in the United States of America.

RICHARD OBADIAH, Publisher

KATHY KOTSIVAS, Operations Director

KURT GOLDZUNG, Sales Director

ROBERT GARCIA, Senior Editor

MICHAEL MCCORMICK, Production Manager

ALEX WALD, Art Director

ONDINE KILKER, Graphic Designer

RICH MARKOW, Traffic Manager

Once  
upon a time...



A WEB OF FOLL ODORES, UNSTIRRED BY EVEN THE FAINTEST BREEZE, HANGS BETWEEN CLOSE-STANDING BUILDINGS. THE REEK OF HUMAN WASTE AND DECAY RISES FROM BROKEN CONCRETE AND CLINGS TO ALL THAT MOVES THROUGH THE NIGHT. BEHIND MORE THAN ONE BOARDED-UP WINDOW A CORPSE LIES UNDISCOVERED--OR DELIBERATELY ABANDONED.

WE CAN SCENT IT ALL, AND HEAR THE NURSING SQUEALS OF BABY RATS--NEW LIFE, FAR HEALTHIER THAN ITS SURROUNDINGS--HIDDEN BENEATH ROTTING FLOORBOARDS. HE CAN SEE, AT THE FAR END OF THE ALLEY, PART OF A TORN FIFTY-DOLLAR BILL. ITS EDGES BEAR THE TAINT OF BLOOD FOR THAT NOW USELESS SCRAP OF PAPER, SOMEONE PROBABLY DIED.



FOR EQUALLY INSANE  
REASONS, SOMEONE  
DID DIE--

--JUST ONE WEEK AGO.

**S**HE WAS A WOMAN OF GREAT COURAGE WHO LEARNED TO EMBRACE THE UNKNOWN AND GROW FROM THE ENCOUNTER...

-A WOMAN OF STRENGTH AND COMPASSION, WHO TRIED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

--A WOMAN LOYAL TO THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY OF LOVES.

YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK AROUND, "RADCLIFFE." YOU MISSED MY FAMOUS PIZZITELLI SOUP.

SHOVE THE DOUGH THROUGH THE LITTLE HOLES AND GET THE BEST PARMESAN CHEESE-WORMS IN THE WORLD, SEE?

YOUR FANCY WOMEN'S COLLEGE NEVER TAUGHT YOU THAT.

GOD! WHERE WERE YOU ALL THOSE MONTHS...? WHAT WERE YOU DOING...? FEELING...?

On the inside...  
Love from our most popular columnists including Bill and  
Lynn Humphrey with unusual friendships at bizarre places and  
**The Times-Dispatch**

Home improvement  
Guide - Section E

Exotic vacation  
ideas - Section G

Missing Attorney  
Catherine Chandler  
Found Slain

DAMMIT!  
WHOSE BABY  
DID YOU HAVE?  
THERE WAS A GUY...  
I KNOW THERE  
WAS A GUY YOU'D  
NEVER TALK  
ABOUT...

WAS IT  
ELLIOT BURCH...?  
OR SOMEONE  
EVEN DEEPER  
INSIDE THE  
MACHINE THAT'S  
CHEWING THIS  
TOWN UP?

DID YOU  
FIND OUT TOO  
MUCH, CATHY?  
DID THIS GUY  
TURN ON YOU  
AND...

DAMN!  
THEY'LL PAY!  
I'LL GET 'EM  
AND MAKE  
'EM PAY!

YEAH... I MISS THAT LAUGH. SOUNDED  
LIKE POPCORN POPPING. AND THOSE EYES...  
CHANGED EXPRESSION A HUNDRED TIMES A  
SECOND, 'CAUSE OF ALL YOUR SECRETS.  
DIDN'T THINK I NOTICED,  
DID YOU?

Poison  
Birth  
Catherine Chandler  
mission

DON'T WORRY,  
RADCLIFFE. I KNOW  
YOUR GUY DIDN'T DO IT.  
IF YOU LOVED HIM ENOUGH  
TO HAVE HIS KID.. HE  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
SOMETHING.

DEPUTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY JOE  
MAXWELL STARES  
INTO SPACE AS HIS  
COFFEE GROWS  
COLD. FOR A MAD  
MOMENT, VINCENT  
IS TEMPTED TO  
REVEAL HIMSELF.

BUT IT  
CANNOT BE.

THOUGH CATHERINE CALLED HER  
FRIEND JOE A GOOD MAN, A  
BRIDGELESS GULF--FEAR OF THE  
UNKNOWN--LIES BETWEEN HIS  
WORLD AND VINCENT'S.

SHARED GRIEF IS NOT ENOUGH TO BRING SUCH STRANGERS TOGETHER—NOT IN A WORLD WHERE MEN STRIVE TO KILL THE DIVINE SPARK IN THEMSELVES, AND REFUSE TO SEE IT IN OTHERS.



Hi...!

HELLO,  
LUCY. ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

YOU WERE  
A STRANGER--BUT  
YOU RISKED EVERYTHING  
TO BE MY EYES. YOU  
HELPED ME ESCAPE  
THOSE WHO WISHED  
MY DEATH.

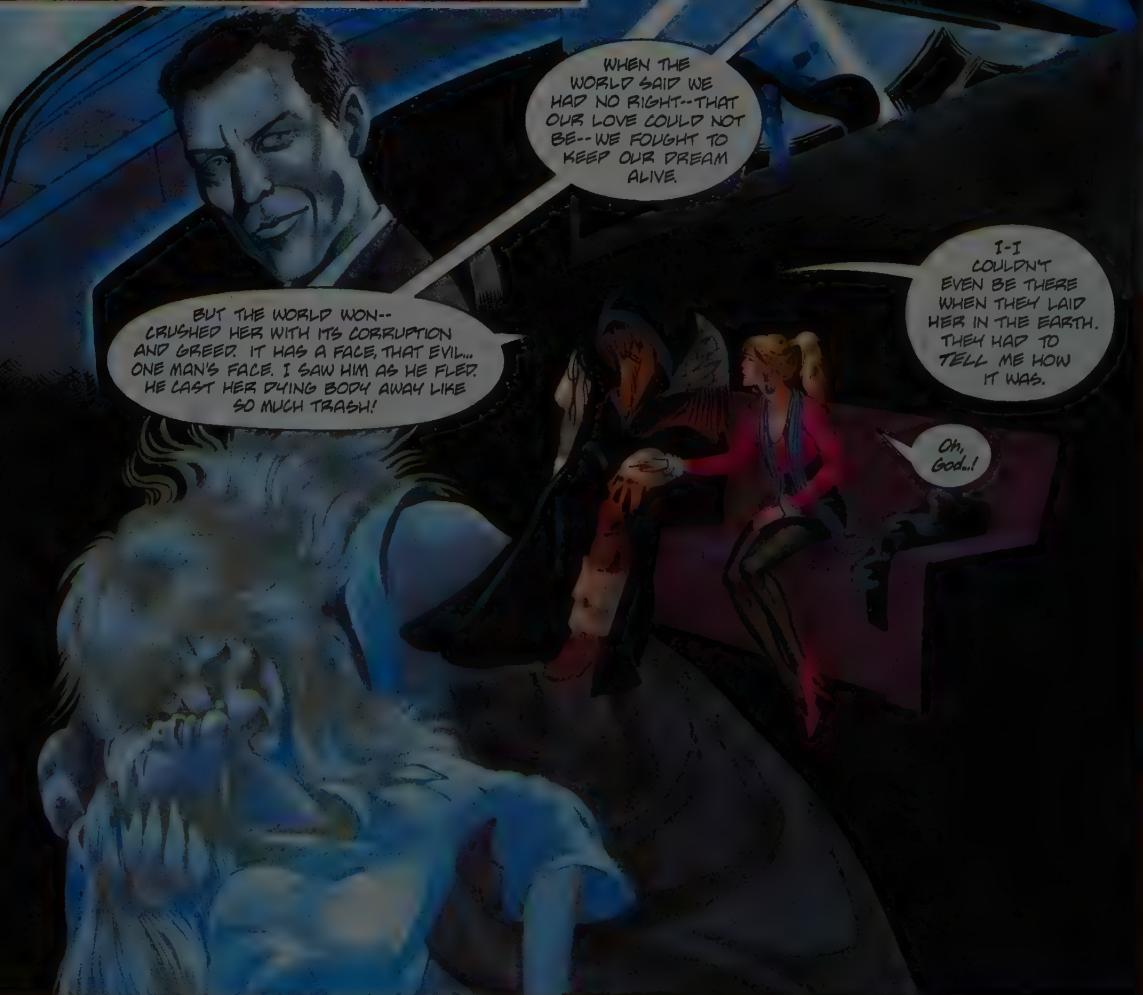
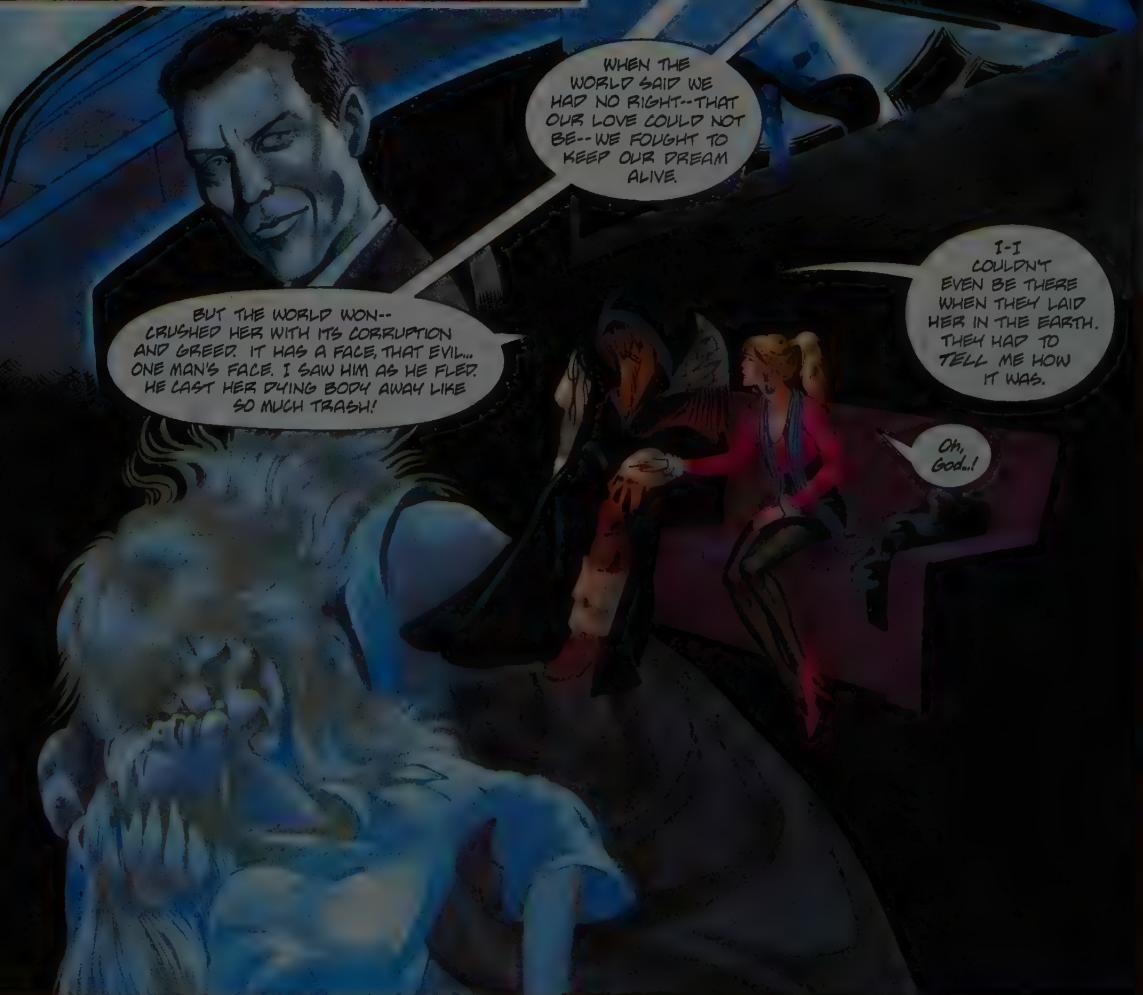
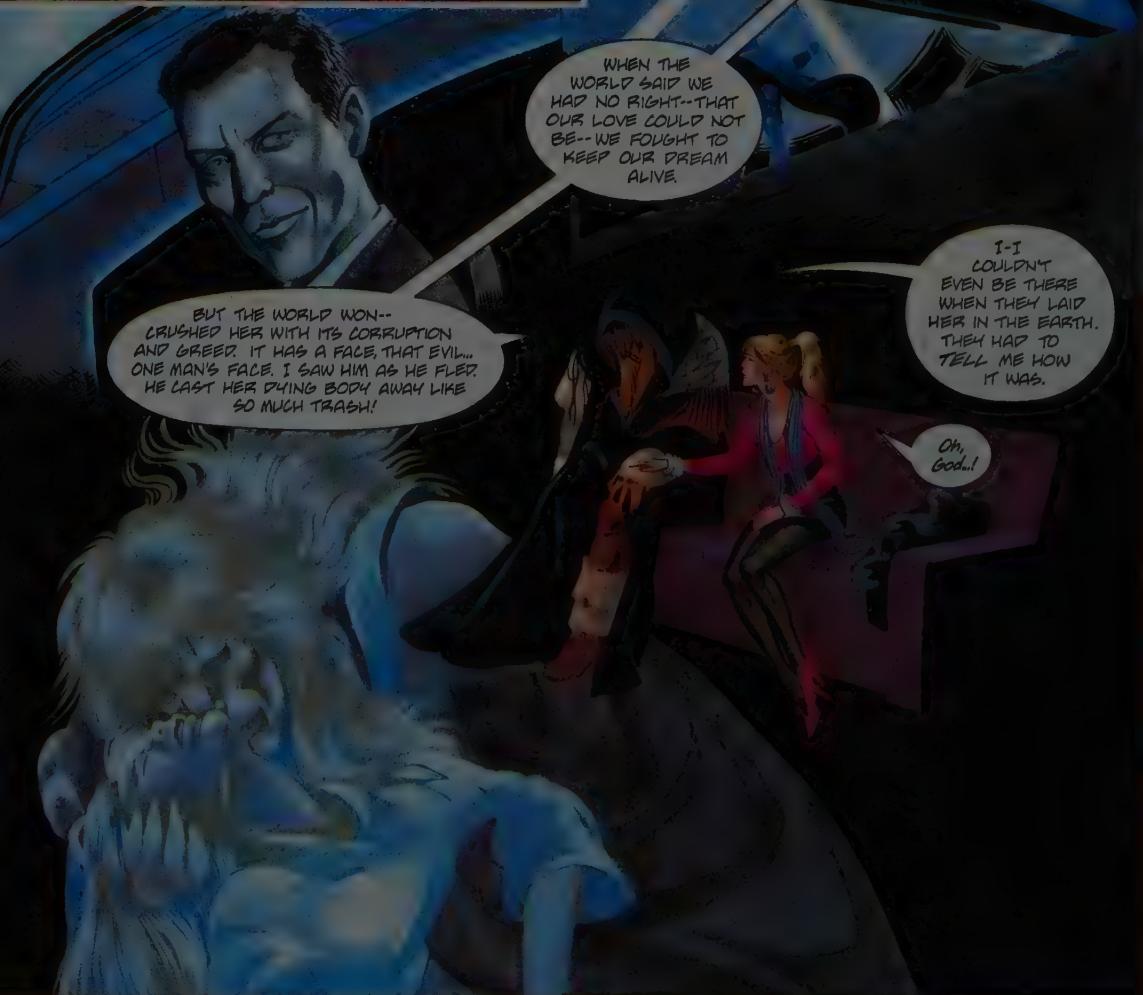
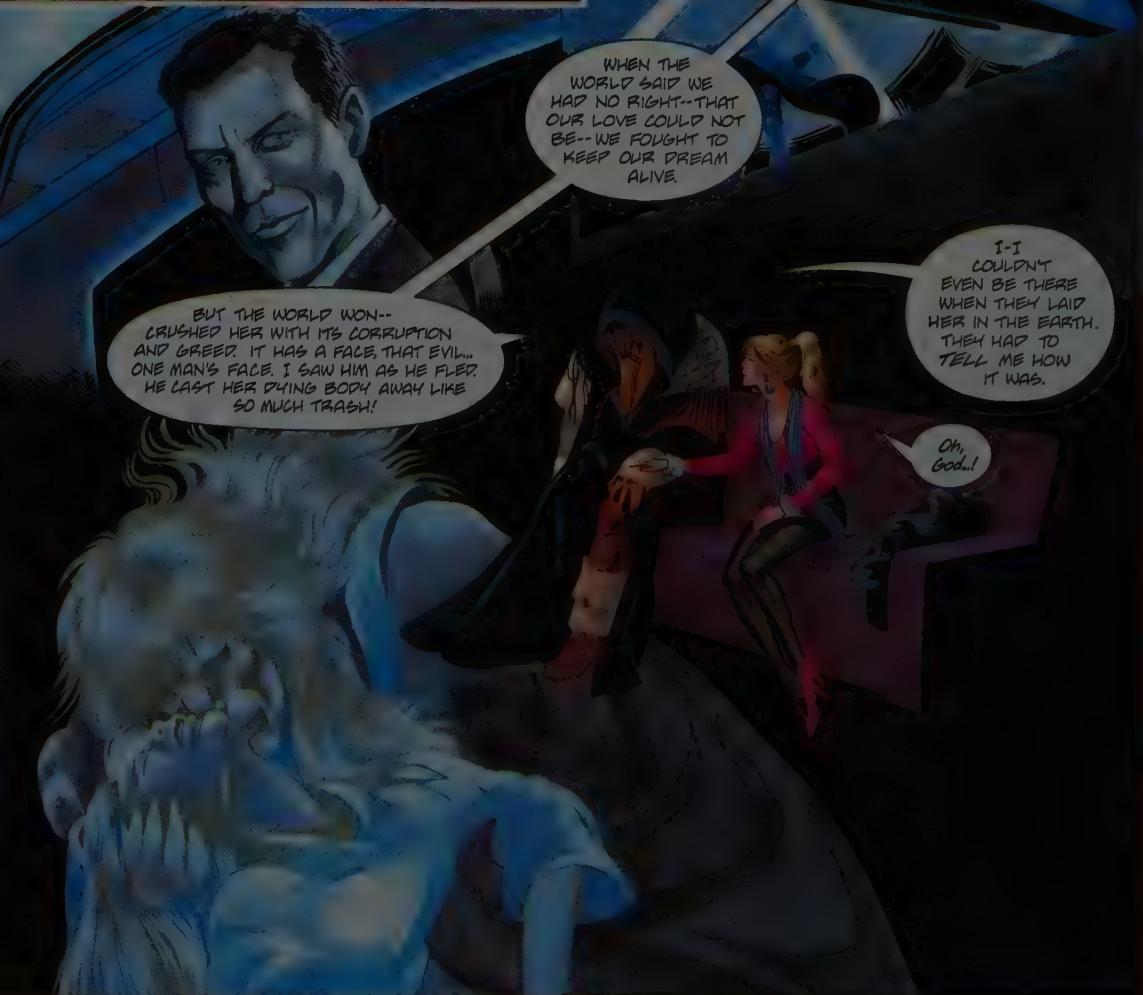
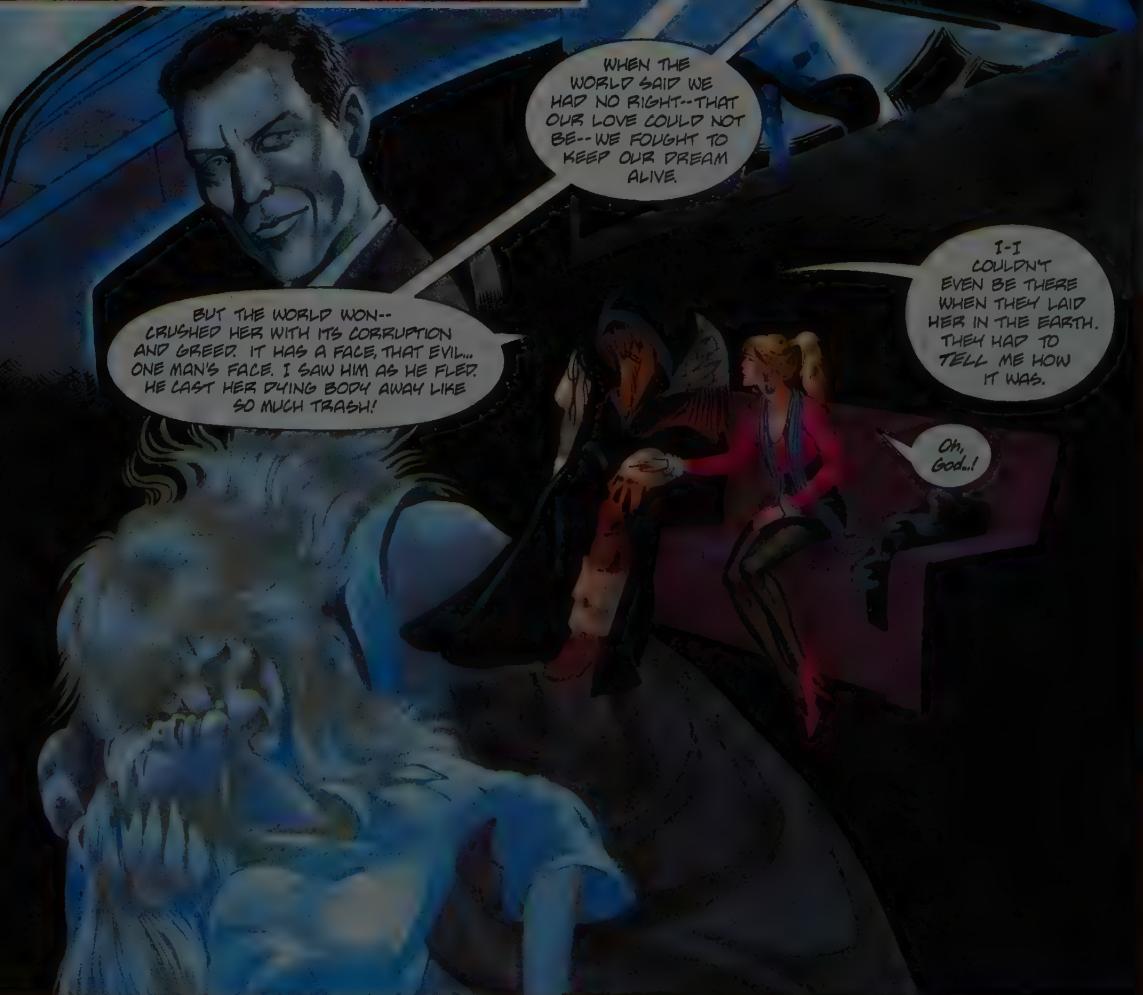
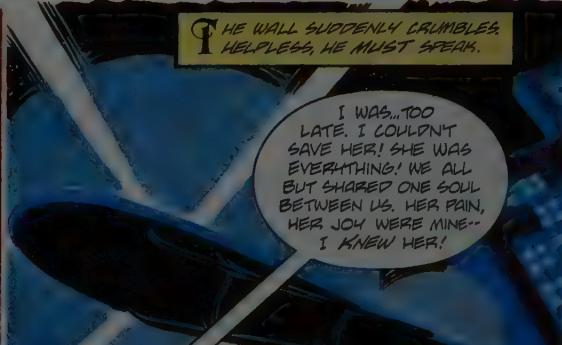
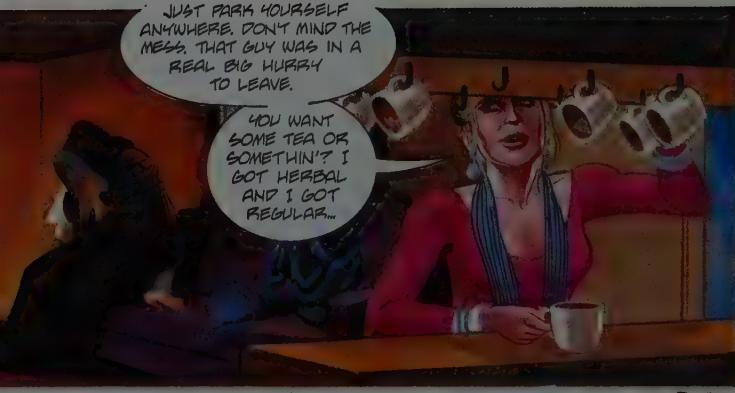
THANKS  
TO YOU.

ME? OH, S-SURE!  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HAZARD. THANKS  
FOR HELPING.

I  
WONDERED  
IF I'D EVER SEE  
YOU AGAIN--IT'S  
BEEN A COUPLE  
OF YEARS.  
GUESS YOU  
MADE IT HOME  
OKAY.

THIS IS SOME KINDA  
RECORD FOR ME, YOU KNOW?  
ONLY MY THIRD MOVE SINCE  
THAT NIGHT YOU--WELL,  
NEVER MIND.

HERE  
WE ARE.



WE HAD A SON--CAN YOU IMAGINE??!

OH, HONEY, OF COURSE I CAN! WITH THAT MUCH LOVE AROUND HIM, ANY KID'D BE LUCKY TO--

--I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM!  
HER CAPTORS STOLE HIM FROM HIS  
MOTHER AS SOON AS SHE BORE HIM. HE'S  
ALL THIS WORLD HAS LEFT ME...  
OF HER. I MUST FIND HIM!

YET  
SOMETHING  
ELSE REMAINS...  
UNFINISHED...  
BETWEEN US.  
SHE HAUNTS ME.  
SHE'S NOT AT  
PEACE, I KNOW...  
DON'T ASK ME  
HOW...

\*sigh\*  
YOU MUST  
THINK ME  
MAD.

NO.  
I THINK  
SOMEONE  
YOU LOVE VERY  
MUCH DIED...AND  
YOU'RE HAVING  
A HARD TIME  
LETTING HER  
GO.

BELIEVE IT OR  
NOT, I HAD ALMOST  
TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE.  
BACK WHEN IT WAS ALL  
BEADS AND BELL  
BOTTOMS AND EVERYONE  
WAS ON SOME KIND  
OF HEAD TRIP.

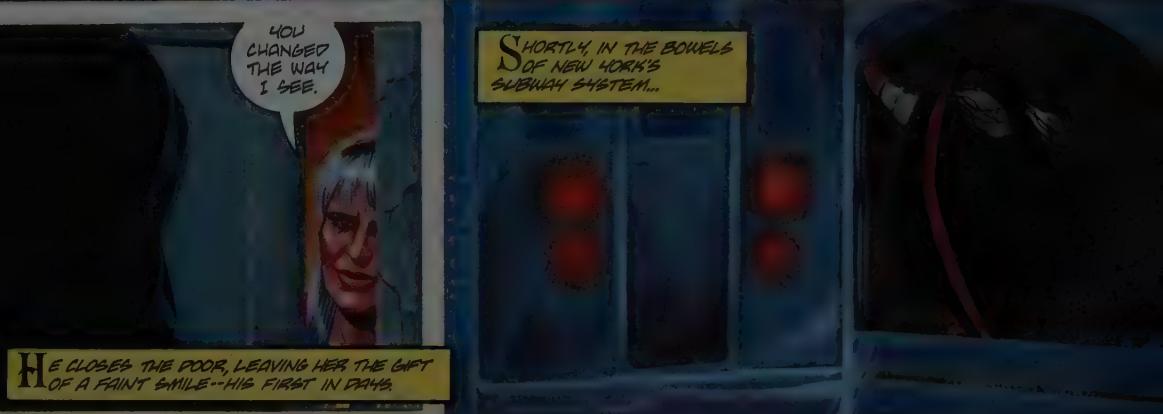
I DID  
SOME READING.  
WEIRD  
STUFF!

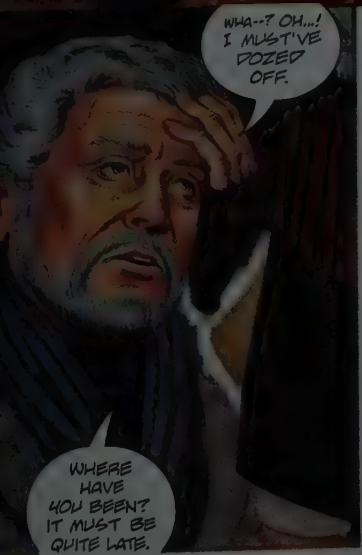
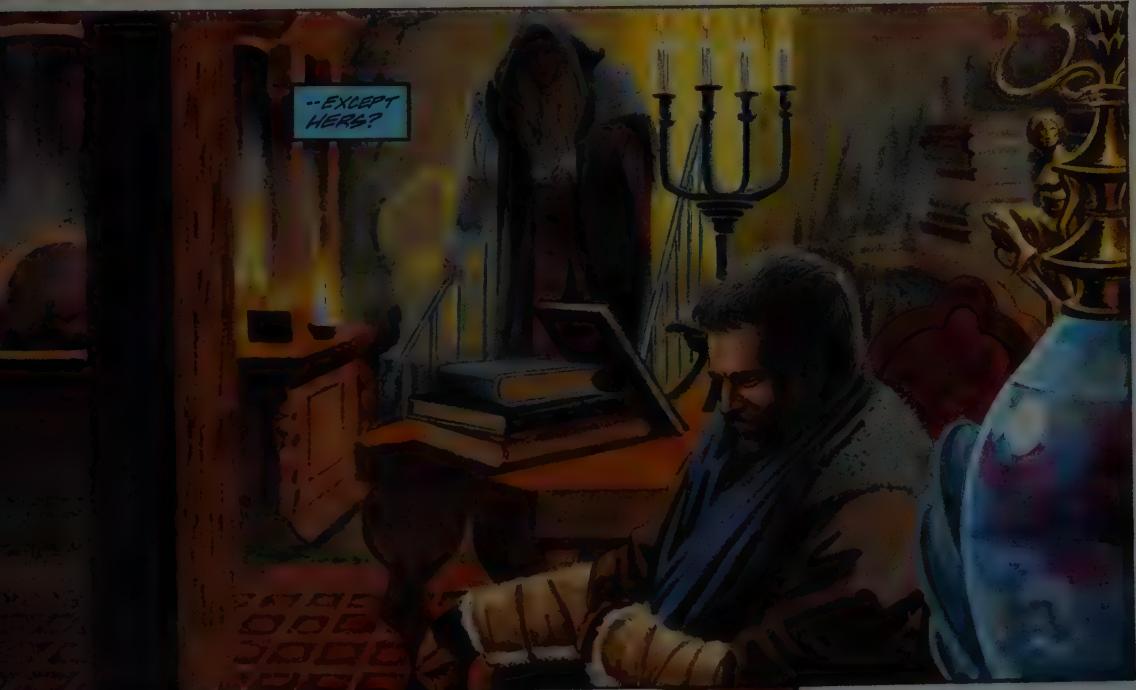
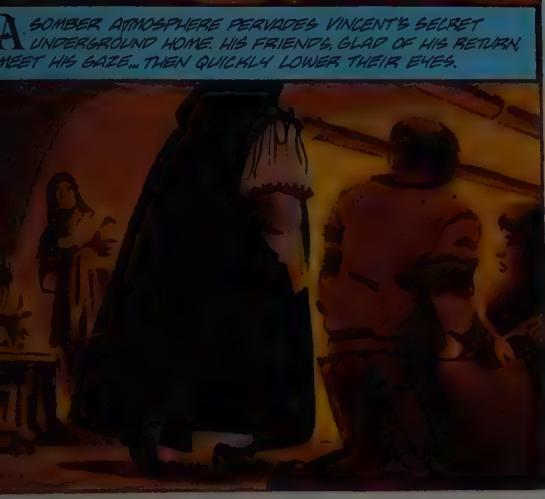
SOMEHOW IT  
WAS MORE LIKE...LIKE  
REMEMBERING THAN  
LEARNING, YOU  
KNOW?

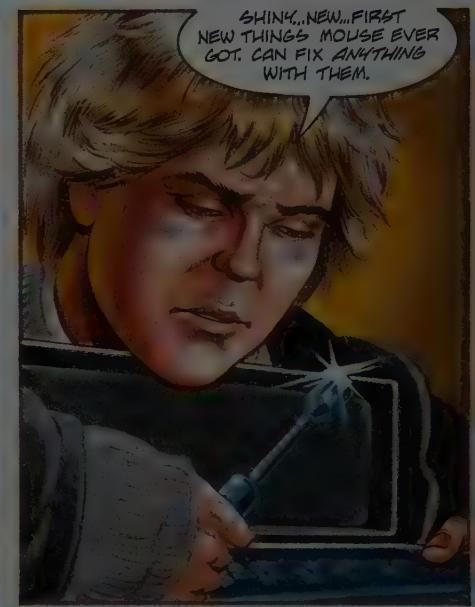
LOOK...MAYBE  
YOU'RE HANGING  
ON SO HARD...THAT  
SHE CAN'T GO  
WHEREVER SHE'S  
SUPPOSED TO  
GO NOW.

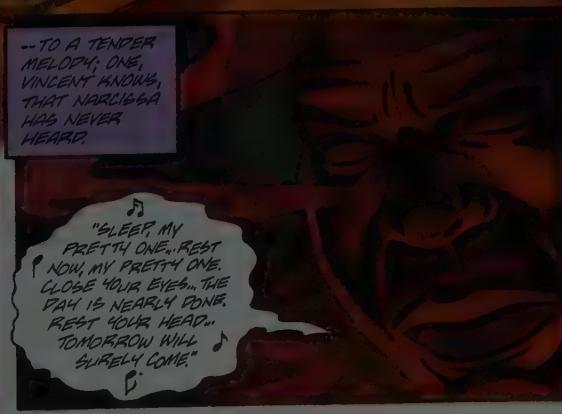
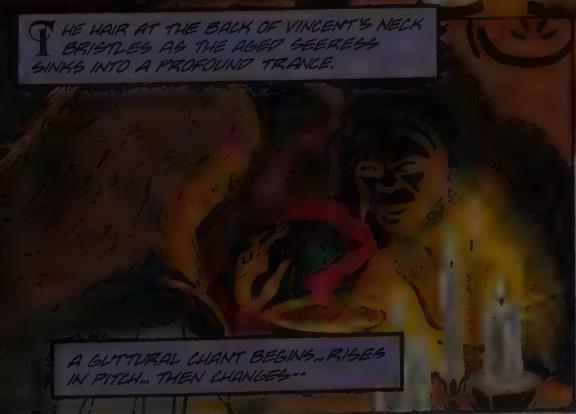
MAHBE  
SHE'S KIND OF...  
YOU KNOW...  
WAITING.











**T**HE SONG  
FADES  
AWAY...

SUCH PASSION...  
SUCH NEED! FEELS  
SO STRANGE VISITING DE  
HEART OF A FORGETFUL  
OLD WOMAN.

THAT WAS  
CATHERINE'S  
LULLABEE!  
AND YOUR  
VOICE--!

**V**INCENT ACCEPTS ALL THAT HE HEARS  
FOR, MORE THAN ONCE, HE HAS "DIED"  
AND GLIMPSED THE LIGHT HIMSELF.

IT'S AS IF OUR  
SHORT TIME TOGETHER  
WAS ONLY BORROWED...OR  
PERHAPS STOLEN.

WE MET IN THE WAKE  
OF VIOLENCE, AND FACED  
DEATH AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR  
EACH OTHER'S SAKE. WE  
ALWAYS WALKED A NARROW  
PATH BETWEEN THIS WORLD  
AND THE NEXT.

--HUSH! I AM  
NOT FINISHED! SHE  
MUST ENTER DE LIGHT  
ALONE. TINK WELL  
ON DIS.

MAKE  
NO MISTAKE,  
YOU WILL  
WANT TO  
STAY WIT'  
HER.

AND IF  
YOU DO...PFFFFT!  
YOUR LIFE HERE  
IS DONE.

LISTEN WELL, CHILD. YOUR  
CATHERINE IS STILL TIED TO YOU.  
HER BONDS ARE MADE OF DIS  
WORLD'S KIND OF LOVE.

DE LIGHT  
SHINES...NO!  
SHE WILL NOT  
GO IN.

HER  
GUIDES COME...NO!  
SHE WILL NOT FOLLOW  
DEM INTO DE LIGHT.  
SHE IS IN DANGER OF  
BECOMING LOST!

YOU ARE STILL HERE  
FOR A REASON. BUT DERE  
IS ONLY ONE GUIDE CATHERINE  
WILL FOLLOW NOW. HAVE YOU  
DE STRENGTH TO LEAD  
HER TO DE LIGHT...

--YES--!

BUT IF  
YOU ARE STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
RETURN WIT' OUT  
HER...

"--IT WILL BE THE GREATEST  
SACRIFICE, THE GREATEST  
ACT OF LOVE!"

**F**AR BEYOND THE  
PERIMETERS OF THE  
INHABITED TUNNELS, WHERE  
FEW UNDERGROUNERS ARE  
WILLING TO MAKE THE DARK  
AND LONELY JOURNEY, LIES  
THE CRYSTAL CAVERN.

**T**HOSE ABLE TO BRAVE THE  
HARD DESCENT ARE  
REWARDED WITH A SIGHT  
UNEQUaled IN ALL THE WORLD.

TO THIS ETHEREAL PLACE NARCISSA  
HAS SENT VINCENT. HE HAS BEEN  
HERE BEFORE, ON MISSIONS THAT  
HAVE BEEN FAR HAPPIER--AND FAR  
LESS HAZARDOUS.

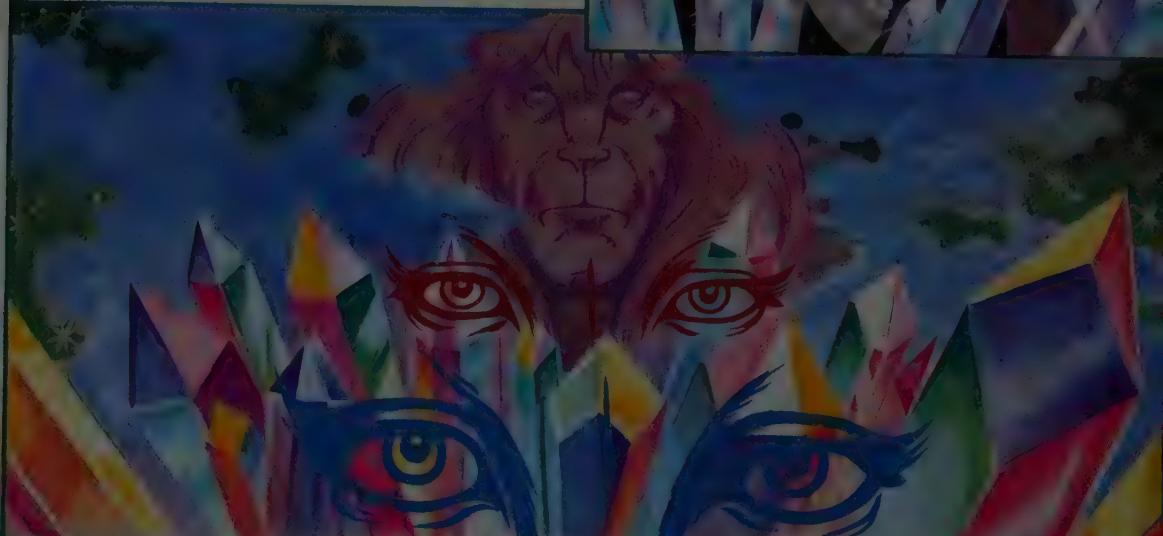
VINCENT PREPARES HIMSELF ACCORDING TO NARUSSA'S INSTRUCTIONS. THREE GIFTS SHE HAS GIVEN HIM; THE FIRST TWO ARE WARNINGS...

"REMEMBER, VINCENT... YOU WILL MEET CATRINE ON HER PATH, NOT YOURS. LET YOUR LOVE GUIDE HER, BUT KNOW YOU CANNOT SPARE HER. DE TRIALS TO COME, ALL SHE DOES MUST BE OF HER OWN WILL."

"DO NOT FORGET ALWAYS TO MOVE TOWARD THE BRIGHTER LIGHT. IT WILL NOT FAIL YOU. IT WILL NOT FAIL HER, IF SHE CHOOSES IT."

THE THIRD GIFT SMELLS OF EARTH, FIRE, AIR, AND WATER—OF DEEP SECRETS WAITING TO REVEAL THEMSELVES TO ONE WHOSE COURAGE AND NEED ARE GREAT ENOUGH..."

ANYTHING... ANYTHING... FOR YOU...!"



A THUNDEROUS RINGING SURROUNDS HIM, FILLS HIM--THE SOUND OF SPECTRAL LIGHT DAZZLED AT FIRST, AND MORE TERRIFIED THAN HE EXPECTED, HE SLIDES FROM ONE RADIANT SHARD OF COLOR TO THE NEXT.

# CATHERINE

**DRIVE**

A close-up photograph of a textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper, featuring a repeating pattern of red and blue geometric shapes.

**H**IS WILL PROPELS HIM.  
THERE IS NO OTHER MEANS  
OF MOVEMENT. HE THINKS OF  
HIS LOVE AND ONLY HER...

...AND SO LEAVES  
HIS FEAR BEHIND.

**T**HIS, THEN, IS HER PATH, HER CREATION.  
BUT HE IS A PART OF IT. THE COMFORTING  
SHADOW OF THIS DREAM VEILED THEIR  
BLARING PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES, HELP THEM  
BOTH IN ITS DUSKY EMBRACE AS SHE READ  
HIM POETRY BY CANDLELIGHT.

**HE RECOGNIZES THIS HAVEN AT  
ONCE. IT IS THE PLACE WHERE HE  
AND HIS CATHERINE ARE ONE.**



HE TRIES TO RUN, TO FOLLOW THE PLAINTIVE VOICE--BUT HERE, THERE ARE NO EARTHLY LAWS FOR HIS LIMBS TO OBEY.

HERE, THE  
LAW OF  
MOVEMENT  
IS NOT  
EFFORT, BUT  
DESIRE...



WARMTH... AND GOLDEN LIGHT, NOT  
REFLECTED--FATHER, LIGHT  
THAT IS LIFE... ILLUMINATION FROM  
WITHIN... A PIERLINGLY CLEAR,  
UNEARTHLY LIGHT... AND YET--

--HE CAN TOUCH HER. HIS GREAT  
PAW CARESSES EACH TINY FINGER  
BONE AND JOINT. HE CHERISHES  
THE FAMILIAR, ALWAYS-SURPRISING  
STRENGTH OF THOSE SMALL HANDS  
AS THEY ENCIRCLE HIS WAIST.

SO  
BEAUTIFUL...!

EYES...  
SHINING! FACE...  
SO SOFT... LIKE  
A ROSE  
PETAL...

E  
VERY ACT, EVERY EXPRESSION OF LOVE  
BECOMES PART OF A TIMELESS SYMPHONY.  
MOVEMENT FLOWS INTO MOVEMENT; SHAPES  
AND SHADES OF ECSTASY EMERGE WITHOUT  
OVERTURE, SUBSIDE WITHOUT FINALE.  
THIS COULD BE 'ALWAYS.'

B  
LUT

VINCENT...?

WE MUST  
GO FROM  
HERE!





VINCENT!



CATHERINE!  
WAIT!

YOU  
WON'T LOSE ME!  
WAIT--!

...PLEASE!  
LET ME HELP!

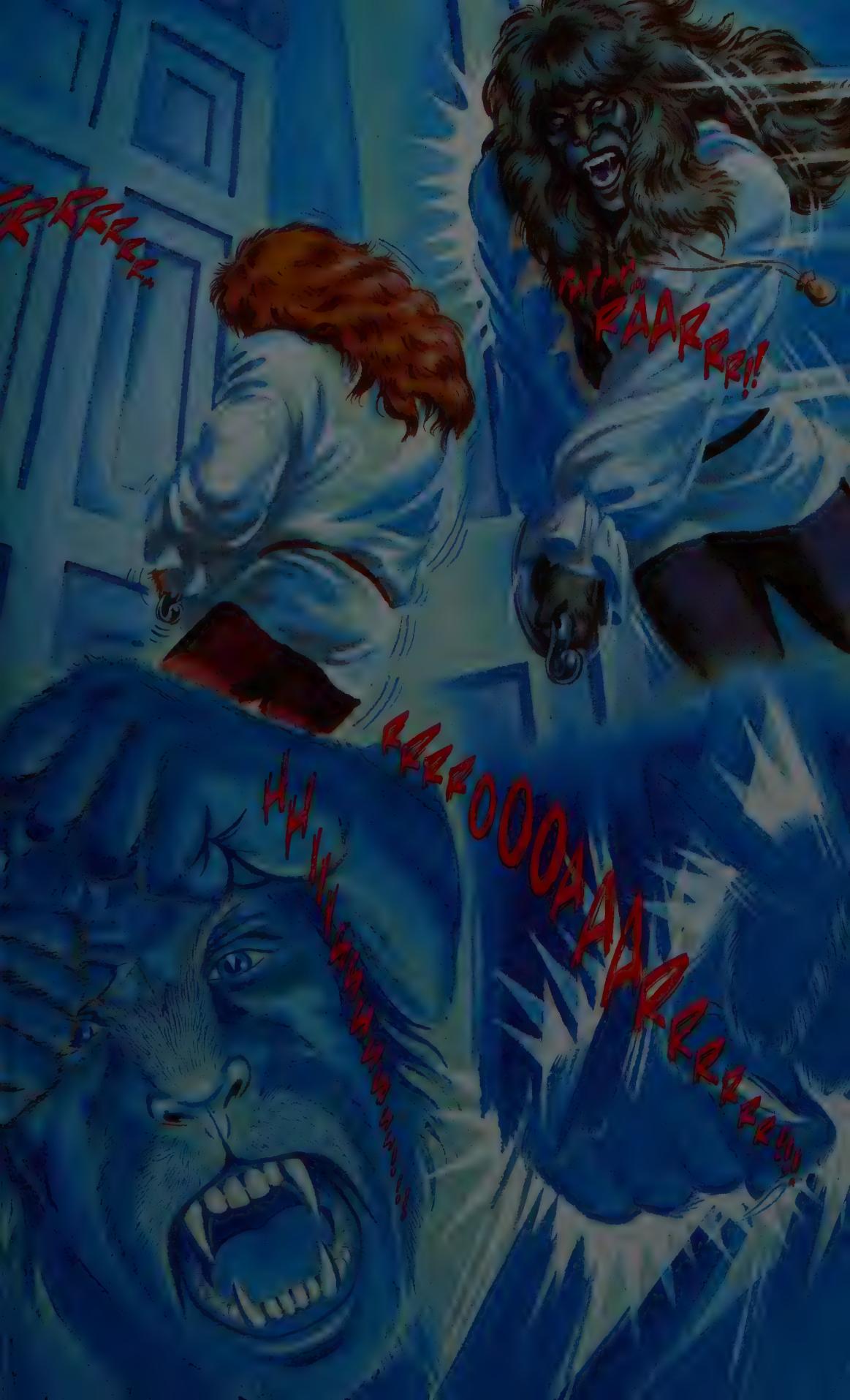
No!

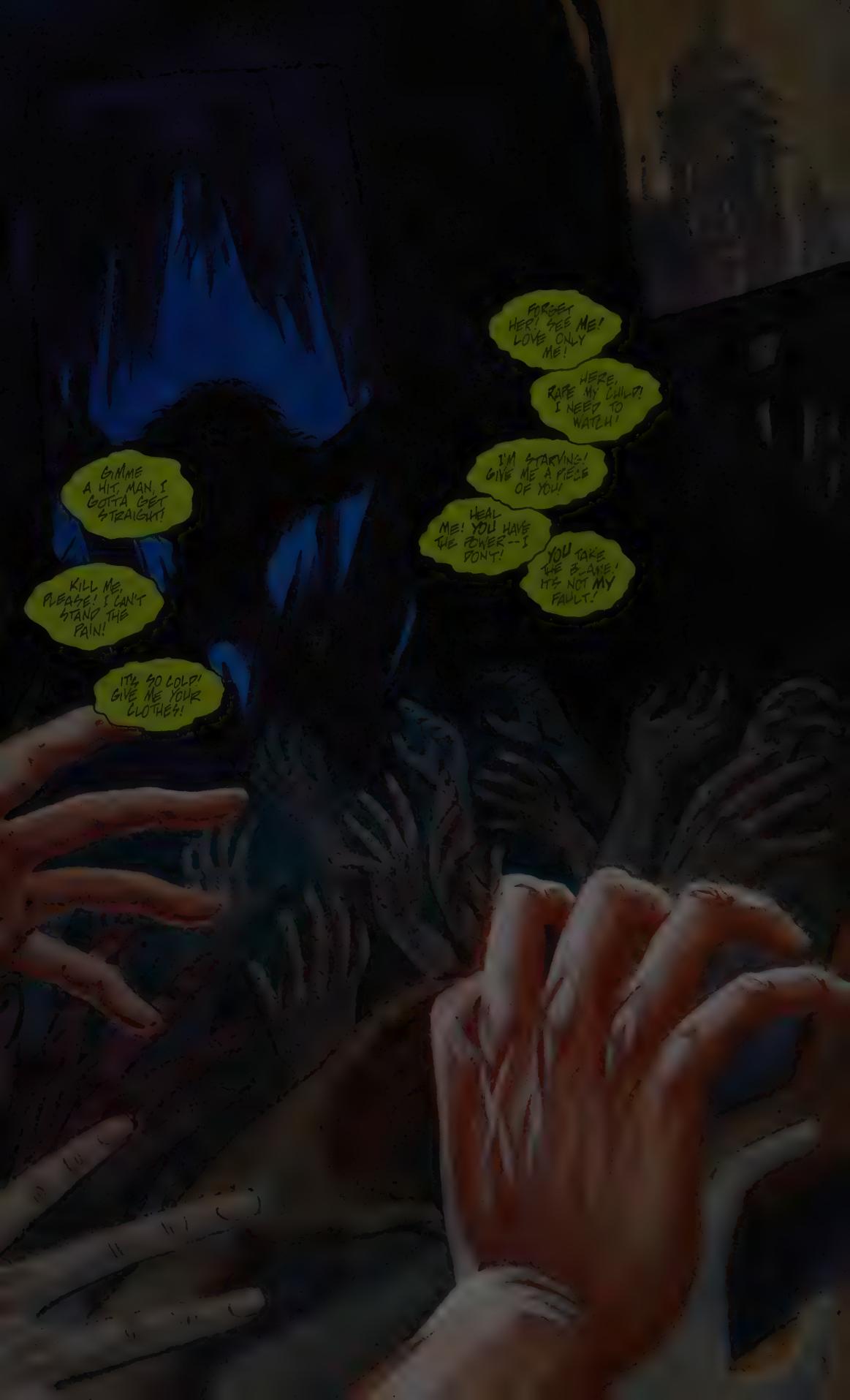
REMEMBER  
YOU CANNOT SPARE HER!

TRIALS TO COME...

TRIALS TO COME...

TRIALS TO COME...





GIMME  
A HIT, MAN,  
I GOTTA GET  
STRAIGHT!

KILL ME,  
PLEASE! I CAN'T  
STAND THE  
PAIN!

IT'S SO COLD!  
GIVE ME YOUR  
CLOTHES!

FORGET  
HER! SEE ME!  
LOVE ONLY  
ME!

RAPE HERE,  
I NEED TO  
WATCH!

I'M STARVING!  
GIVE ME A PIECE  
OF YOU!

HEAL  
ME! YOU HAVE  
THE POWER--I  
DON'T!

YOU  
TAKE  
THE BLAME!  
IT'S NOT MY  
FAULT!



"...I  
WANT  
TO  
DO  
THIS!"

TOO MANY...  
\*SOB\* ALWAYS  
TOO MANY...!

CATHERINE!  
LET IT GO!

YOU GAVE  
SO MUCH OF  
YOURSELF...TOUCHED  
SO MANY LIVES!  
PLEASE KNOW--

YOU CAN'T  
FIX IT ALL! NO  
ONE CAN!

--JUST  
KNOW...YOU MADE A  
DIFFERENCE!

\*sigh\* IT'S  
ALL RIGHT. I'M  
REALLY.. REALLY..  
ALL RIGHT.

COULD YOU  
EVER HAVE ACCEPTED  
ME--LOVED ME AS I AM--  
IF YOU WEREN'T FAR  
MORE THAN THAT?

SEE YOURSELF  
AS I...AS EVERYONE  
WHO LOVES YOU SEEKS  
YOU. THAT IS WHO  
YOU ARE.



THIS  
WAY... TOWARD  
THE BRIGHTER  
LIGHT.

NO!  
IT WILL  
SEPARATE  
US!

CATHERINE!  
I BEG YOU...!

NOTHING  
WILL PART US  
AGAIN!

DON'T  
BE AFRAID!  
CHOOSE THE  
LIGHT!

FOLLOW  
ME! I'LL KEEP US  
TOGETHER!



OH  
GOD!





No!

FIGHT!  
FOR GOD'S SAKE,  
FIGHT!!!

FOR YOUR  
SAKE...I MUST NOT!  
YOU MUST SEE...  
THERE'S NO  
TRUTH--

--IN  
ANY OF  
THIS!





LISTEN TO ME!  
HERE IS WHERE YOU  
LEARN IT, NOW OR  
NEVER! WE'RE  
SAFE!

NO  
MATTER HOW  
THE WORLD HURT  
US...FORCED US TO  
FIGHT BACK...WE  
WERE ALWAYS  
SAFE!

NO ONE...  
NOTHING...CAN  
DESTROY US!

CATHERINE...  
MY STRONG...MY  
BEAUTIFUL  
AVENGER...CHOOSE  
LOVE!

I'VE BEEN...  
SO ANGRY! THEY  
TOOK IT ALL AWAY  
FROM ME!  
\*CHOKES\*

THERE  
WAS SO MUCH  
I WANTED  
TO DO...!



TO KEEP THAT  
ANGER ALIVE...EVEN HERE!  
HOW IT MUST HAVE  
HURT YOU!

ALL  
THOSE  
MONTHS WITHOUT  
YOU BY MY  
SIDE...



THE CHILD  
CAME--THEN,  
SUDDENLY...IT  
WAS OVER!

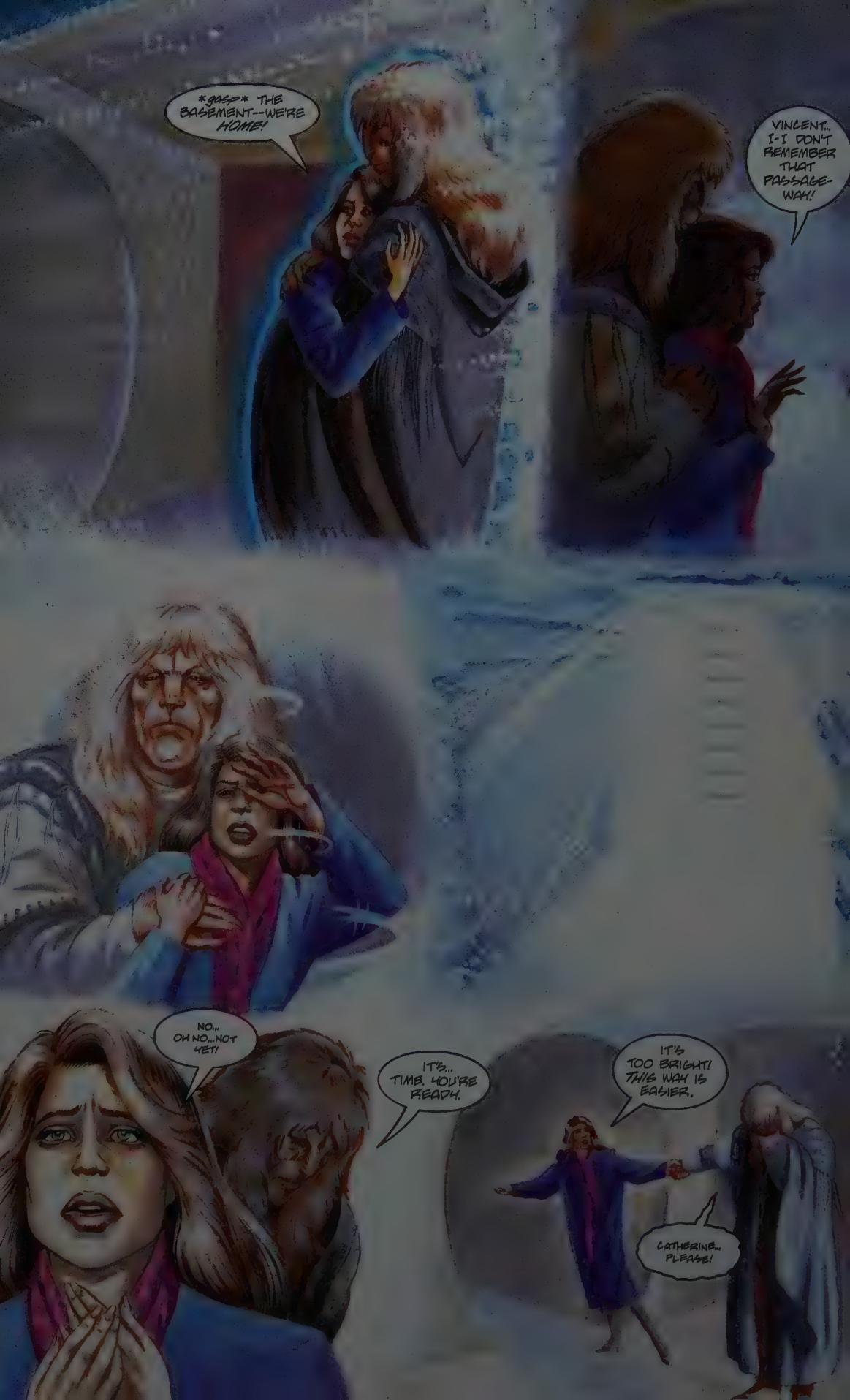


WHAT WE  
SHARED WAS  
ENOUGH...  
MORE THAN  
ENOUGH!



IT  
WAS!

IT IS!  
LOVING YOU IS...  
EVERYTHING.



**A**T LAST...  
SHE KNOWS.

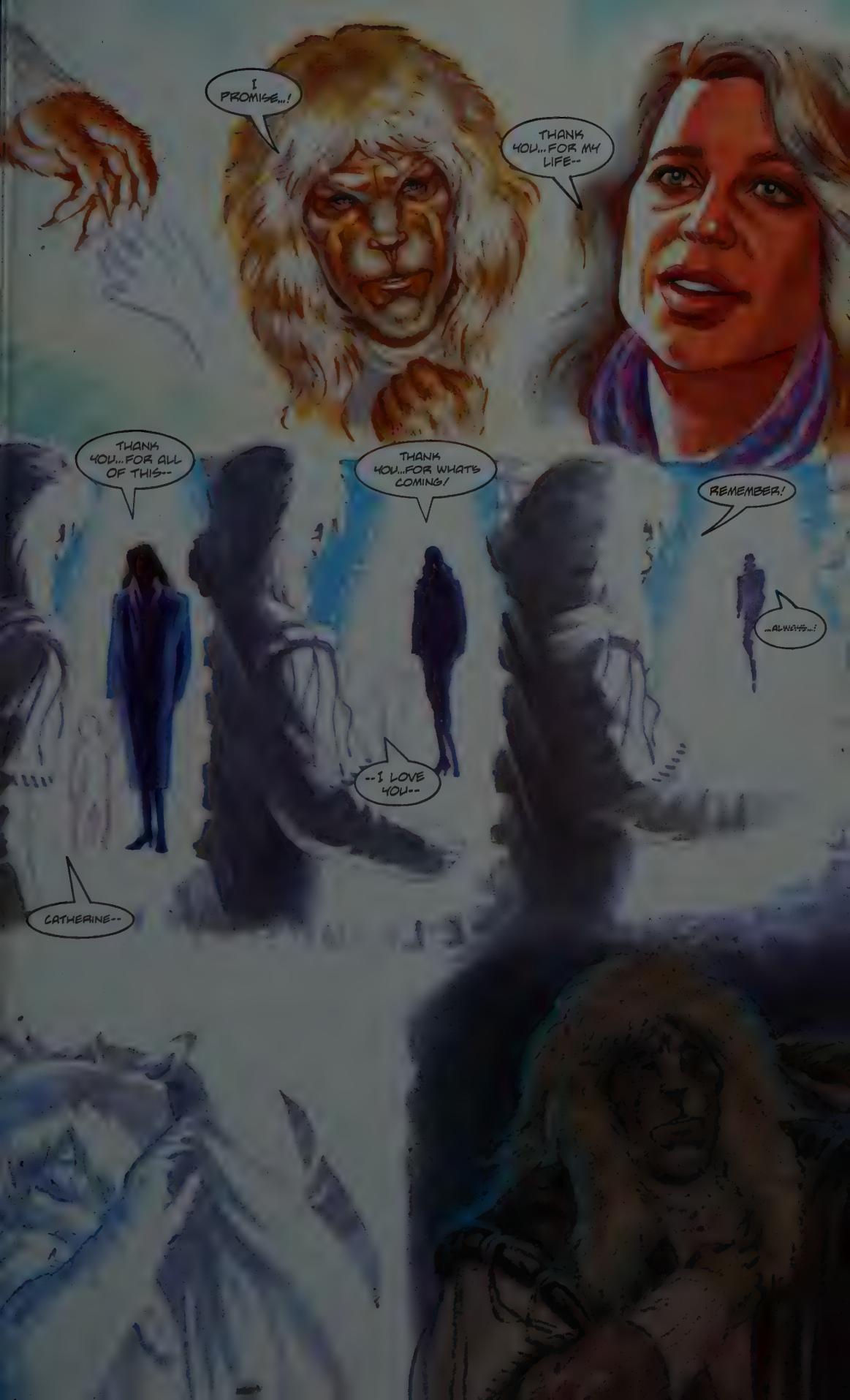
DEAR  
GOD, I'VE BEEN...  
TESTING MYSELF!  
AND YOU--YOU'VE  
SHARED IT WITH ME--  
GONE THROUGH IT  
ALL...FOR  
ME!

IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE! I  
CAN'T...

TAKE  
ME WITH YOU!  
WHATEVER PATH  
YOU CHOOSE--I  
CHOOSE! OH,  
CATHERINE--

I DIDN'T  
KNOW...NEVER  
DREAMED, THIS  
WOULD BE SO  
HARD!





I PROMISE...

THANK  
YOU...FOR MY  
LIFE--

THANK  
YOU...FOR ALL  
OF THIS...

THANK  
YOU...FOR WHAT'S  
COMING!

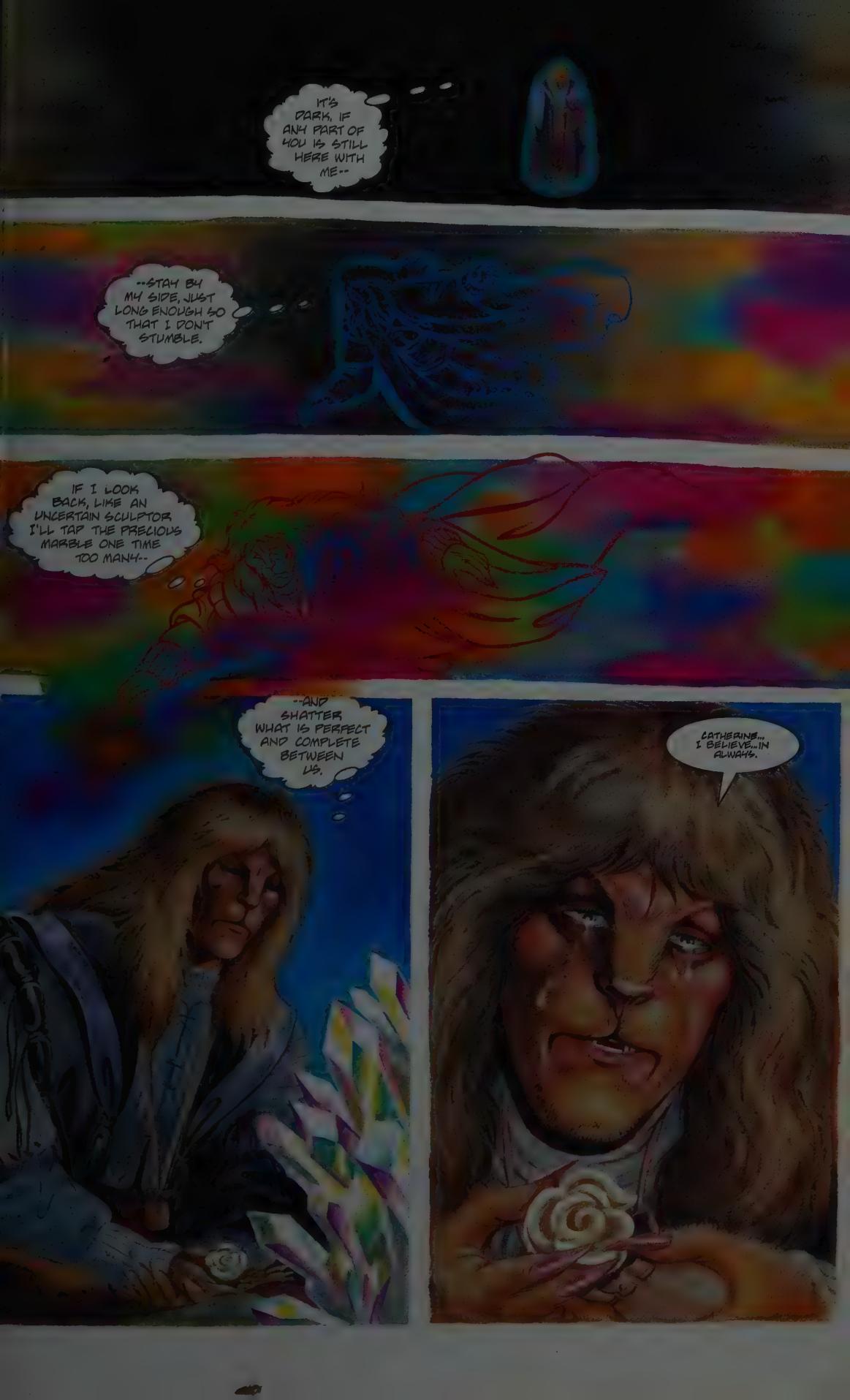
REMEMBER!

...ALWAYS...

--I LOVE  
YOU--

CATHERINE...





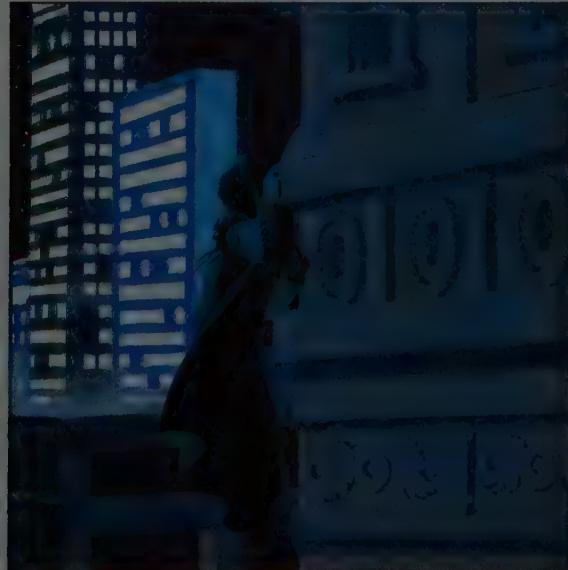
IT'S  
DARK, IF  
ANY PART OF  
YOU IS STILL  
HERE WITH  
ME--

--STAY BY  
MY SIDE, JUST  
LONG ENOUGH SO  
THAT I DON'T  
STUMBLE.

IF I LOOK  
BACK, LIKE AN  
UNCERTAIN SCULPTOR,  
I'LL TAP THE PRECIOUS  
MARBLE ONE TIME  
TOO MANY--

-AND  
SHATTER  
WHAT IS PERFECT  
AND COMPLETE  
BETWEEN  
US.

CATHERINE...  
I BELIEVE...IN  
ALWAYS.



A CLEANSING WIND BORN OF THE RIVER AND ITS MOTHER BAY SWEEPS ALONG THE ROOFTOPS, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY, THE AIR IS NOT SO BURDENED WITH THE SCENT OF A MILLION HORRORS, A MILLION SORROWS.

IT IS SIMPLY THE AIR.

THERE IS AN ORDERLINESS, ASTONISHING TO CONSIDER, IN THE GLITTERING PATTERN OF TRAFFIC BELOW FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO MAKE SENSE.

BUT THE MYRIAD EYES, THE LIGHTS THAT HAVE ALWAYS ANSWERED HIS GAZE FROM THE FACES OF LONG-KNOWN TOWERS, ARE DIFFERENT TONIGHT.

THEY SEEM TO WINK IN TIME WITH A DISTANT PULSE. SHE IS NO LONGER WITH HIM, BUT HE IS NOT ALONE. PERHAPS ONE OF THOSE LIGHTS SHINES NOW, ON LOVE'S MOST UNIQUE CREATION.

SOFTLY...HE BEGINS TO HUM CATHERINE'S LULLABY.

SOMEWHERE, HE IS CERTAIN, THE CHILD HEARS.



*"For this is wrong, if anything is wrong:  
not to enlarge the freedom of a love  
with all the inner freedom one can summon.  
We need, in love, to practice only this:  
letting each other go."*

—Rainier Maria Rilke,  
*'Requiem for a Friend'*

## R E F L E C T I O N S

---

"So, how do you feel about doing this book?" Ron Koslow looked at me from his side of a long conference table littered with pastry crumbs, dented soda cans, pieces of half-eaten fruit, and balls of crumpled notepaper. The *Beauty and the Beast* writers had just finished a marathon story session.

"Well, it's certainly a privilege to work so closely with the Catherine and Vincent characters," I answered, "but I do feel a bit intimidated. After all, this story is about their last — their *very* last — meeting." Ron laughed. "Nothing like being under pressure, is there?"

The story treatment I'd submitted earlier for the second B&B graphic novel, a standard Beast'n'robbers thing, had received a lukewarm response. But then I got "the phone call" during which Ron Koslow explained in detail what would happen in the show's third season. "You mean the Beast is going to lose his beauty?!" I squeaked. What a curve ball! What a loss! Linda Hamilton's creation — brave, adorable, expressive, size-two Cathy — gone! How would, indeed how *could*, Vincent survive? Just how far would his love for Catherine take him?

*Night of Beauty* is my answer. The story was inspired by Cocteau's classic *Beauty and the Beast* film, by Rilke's poem "Requiem for a Friend," and in no small part by a beautiful, lovingly conceived book entitled *Letters to a Dying Friend*, by Anton Grosz. Astonishing Anton, a long-time acquaintance of Richard's and mine, has done a great service by presenting the Tibetan Book of the Dead in terms that the Western mind can grasp.



When depicting the afterlife, it's easy for a fantasy artist to resort to clichés. But with these three great sources of imagery as reference, I felt a bit more equal to the task before me.

Upon acceptance of the script for *Night of Beauty*, Ron Koslow expressed the wish that it could be made into a two-hour movie. "Can't we scrape a few million dollars together?" I wheedled. Ron laughed again: "It would take considerably more than a few million!"

Well, that's the advantage of the graphic novel medium. Your special effects budget is as unlimited as your imagination. For all the faithful followers of the most extraordinary, romantic fantasy series ever to appear on television, may your imaginations always be as boundless as your god-given ability to love.

— Wendy Pini

# A F T E R W O R D

---

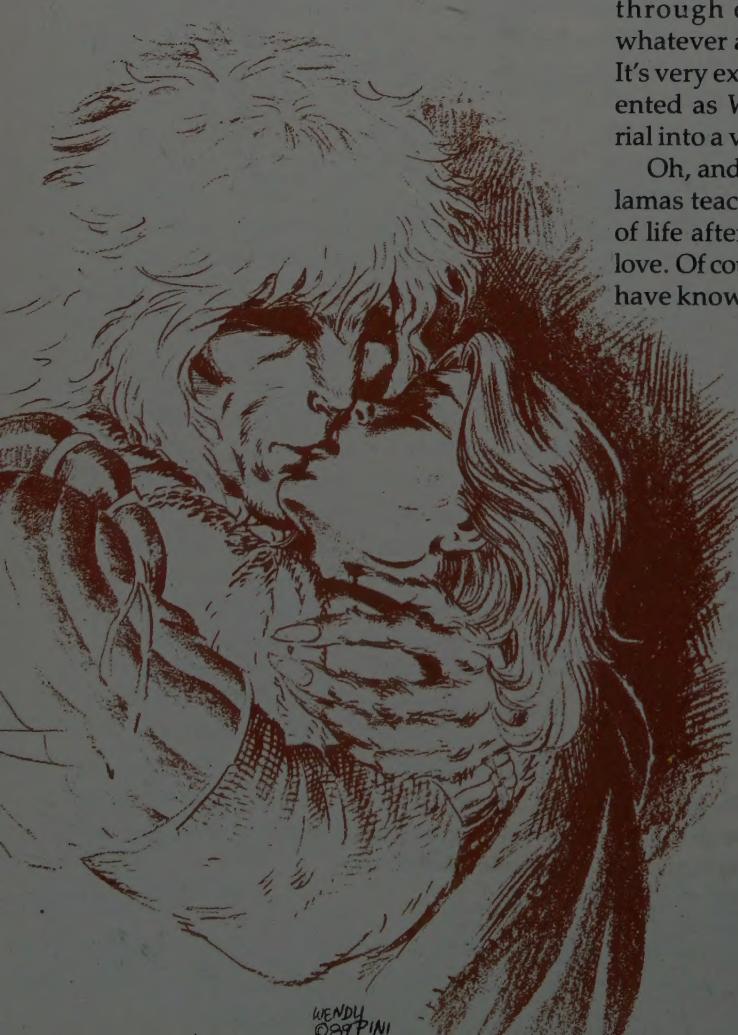
**W**endy Pini's *Beauty and the Beast: Night of Beauty* is a very special work. In addition to its imaginative storyline, deep-running emotion, and vibrant artwork, *Night of Beauty* is one of the first works I've seen that draws on mystical teachings of the Bardo — the non-physical reality that exists beyond the life of the body. Written down more than 1,200 years ago by Tibetan lamas, this information has only recently been translated into English and brought to the attention of the Western world. Even

more exciting, the mystical experiences originally described so long ago are being confirmed by people who've been resuscitated from death by medical science.

I do not consider the Bardo to be fictional. Each of us, upon dying, will experience our deepest thoughts and emotions, much the same as we experience them in our dreams. And just as in our dreams, what we go through will seem absolutely real, as anyone who's ever had a nightmare can attest. Manifestations of our personal ideas and feelings, in the form of beings, colored lights, or other visions, will lead us through our own unique maze to whatever awaits us on the other side. It's very exciting to see someone as talented as Wendy translate that material into a visually oriented medium.

Oh, and what do the ancient Tibetan lamas teach as the most basic essence of life after death? *Love*. Pure, simple love. Of course, *Beauty and the Beast* fans have known this all along.

— Anton Grosz



WENDY PINI



# T.R.A.D.E PAPERBACKS FOR CHILDREN

- The Enchanted Apples of Oz (\$7.95)  
The Secret Island of Oz (\$7.95)  
The Ice King of Oz (\$7.95)  
The Forgotten Forest of Oz (\$8.95)

## FOR ALL AGES

- Beauty and the Beast: Portrait of Love (\$5.95)  
Beauty and the Beast: Night of Beauty (\$5.95)  
Beowulf (\$6.95)  
Elfic of Melniboné (\$14.95)  
Elric: Sailor on the Seas of Fate (\$14.95)  
Hawkmoon: The Jewel in the Skull (\$9.95)  
Hexbreaker: A Badger Graphic Novel (\$8.95)  
The Original Nexus (\$7.95)  
The Next Nexus (\$9.95)  
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles®, Books 1-4 (\$9.95 each)

## FOR MATURE READERS

- American Flagg!: Hard Times (\$11.95)  
American Flagg!: Southern Comfort (\$11.95)  
American Flagg!: State of the Union (\$11.95)  
Team Yankee: The Graphic Novel (\$12.95)  
Demon Knight: A Grimjack Graphic Novel (\$8.95)  
Time<sup>2</sup>: The Satisfaction of Black Mariah (\$7.95)

## COMIC MAGAZINES

- Badger (\$1.95)  
Dreadstar (\$1.95)  
Grimjack (\$1.95)  
Lone Wolf and Cub (\$3.25)  
Nexus (\$1.95)

## C.L.A.S.S.I.C.S ILLUSTRATED

- The Raven and Other Poems by Edgar Allan Poe (\$3.75)  
Great Expectations (\$3.75)  
Through The Looking - Glass (\$3.75)  
Moby Dick (\$3.75)  
Hamlet (\$3.75)  
The Scarlet Letter (\$3.75)  
The Count of Monte Cristo (\$3.75)  
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (\$3.75)  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (\$3.75)

First Publishing trade paperbacks, comics, and other products are available in finer bookstores and all comic retail stores throughout the country. To order individual trade paperbacks send cover price plus \$1.50 for postage and handling; or for further information about comic magazine subscriptions write: First Publishing, 435 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

\$5.95/\$7.00 CANADA

ISBN: 0-915419-75-0

BASED ON THE HIT CBS TELEVISION SERIES

# Beauty and the Beast™

Vincent and Catherine are soulmates. Their love is strong enough to keep them together eternally — in this world or any other.

Now, they are finding that the greatest challenge to that bond is also the ultimate test of their love ... and that sometimes, the brightest light can only be reached by the darkest, most difficult path.

Journey with them through the twilight of souls...

# *Night of Beauty*

**FIRST**  
PUBLISHING

©1990 FIRST PUBLISHING, INC.

\*T1-BEX-222\*